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WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 24, 2021

\$3

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather

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Pulse of Wabash

Seeking sports stringers

Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming winter sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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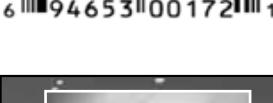
Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 and Wednesday, March 24 at

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Hoosiers 60 and over now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine

Over 1,800 people have now been fully vaccinated at Wabash County site

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Tuesday, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) announced the long-awaited news that Hoosiers age 60 and over

are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

This expansion of eligibility makes the vaccine available to an additional 432,000 Hoosiers.

"Due to limited vaccine supplies nationally, Indiana

has prioritized healthcare workers, first responders and those who are most vulnerable in its vaccine rollout," stated the ISDH on Tuesday.

Individuals age 60 and older account for more than 22 percent of the state's population but 64 percent of the COVID-19 hospitalizations and 93.3 percent of

the deaths.

"Additional groups will be added as more vaccine becomes available," stated the ISDH.

To date, more than 60 percent of eligible Hoosiers have scheduled an appointment to be vaccinated against COVID-19. As of Monday, 893,246 Hoosiers have received the first dose

of vaccine, and 440,028 are fully vaccinated.

On Thursday at the Honeywell Center's vaccination clinic, volunteer and Southwood High School student Monica Hobson, said they were mostly administering second doses for those who have had the first

See VACCINE, page A4

Contemplating a new jail



Photos by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

The county has issued a request for proposals to select an architect or engineer for the new facility to be located at 1335 Manchester Ave.

Local leaders address public concerns during a special meeting Thursday

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The prospect of a new facility for the Wabash County Jail has been looming over local leaders, and a special meeting Thursday at the Heartland REMC Community Room allowed them to address taxpayers and answer their concerns.

Chairman and District 4 councilmember Kyle Bowman said the "jail has been a point of discussion for quite a few years now."

"I think at this point we don't have an alternate option but to build a jail," said Sheriff Ryan Baker.

Baker said the current facility at 79 W. Main St. was built in 1979 rated for 60 beds. That number was later moved to 72, where it sits today.

Baker said in 2016, there



A special meeting Thursday at the Heartland REMC Community Room allowed local leaders to address taxpayers and answer their concerns regarding the proposed new Wabash County Jail.

were around 120 inmates on the average daily population, with that number spiking to around 176 inmates per day in 2019.

Baker said starting in 2012, Wabash County started hous-

ing inmates at taxpayer expense in the Miami, Elkhart and Tipton County jails, and occasionally Whitley or Noble county jails, depending on needs.

"The issue is the safety and

security of the inmates and the staff," said Baker. "When the numbers are what they are, it becomes a safety and security issue for everyone."

Baker said they currently have 31 people enrolled in treatment court, 98 at community corrections, 194 at pretrial release and 881 on probation.

"Any one of those folks could be in Wabash County Jail, but they are in programs to keep them out of jail," said Baker. "Anyone on probation could violate. There is programming outside of just incarcerating."

Baker said they currently don't have the space to conduct any program inside the jail itself.

"If there's an open space in the Wabash County Jail,

See JAIL, page A4

See PURSUIT, page A4

Bridge No. 143 replacement funds approved by INDOT

Wabash County awarded over \$1.5M for project Monday

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

A controversial local bridge project has been funded by the despite complaints from some

local residents.

On Monday, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) strategic communications director Scott Manning said Wabash County was awarded \$1,515,200 for the replacement of Bridge No. 143 on County Road East 1050 South over Grant Creek. "Generally on bridge project funding requests, INDOT

makes the determination based on the condition ratings of the bridge and the traffic volume the bridge carries," said Manning. "This helps to drive funding to bridge replacement or rehabilitation project that has the greatest need and will have the best impact on improving the state's overall bridge ratings."

On Monday, Wabash Coun-

ty Highway Department supervisor Cole Wyatt said the funding would completely replace the bridge "and adjust the elevation of the east approach."

Manning said the local amount was part of the \$100.8 million in federal transportation funding that was being awarded to 54 cities, towns and counties in rural portions

of Indiana to invest in local road and bridge improvements as well as sidewalk and trail projects. Combined with local funds, approximately \$124.9 million is being invested in infrastructure in communities receiving funds.

Manning said in addition to the local bridge project,

See BRIDGE, page A4

Erica Markiewicz

Registered Representative

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Wabash Marketplace announces March First Friday details

Organized by Wabash Marketplace, First Friday takes place from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 5 in downtown Wabash, according to executive director Andrea Zwiebel.

This free event features downtown shopping, food, live music and children's activities.

"First Friday in March will be filled with celebration," said Zwiebel. "The theme is 'Lucky & Lit,' honoring St. Patrick's Day and the city of Wabash being the first electrically lighted city in the world."

Zwiebel said Trolley No. 85 will be running including stops at Veteran's Plaza, Eagles Theatre, The Depot, YMCA and the Charley Creek Inn Miami Entrance.

"A friendly reminder that Wabash County is "yellow" according to the Indiana State Department of Health

(ISDH)," said Zwiebel. "Face coverings and social distancing are required in downtown Wabash."

For more information, visit wabashmarketplace.org/first-friday.

Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR to hold March meeting

Wabash County Frances Slocum Chapter of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at the Grandstaff Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave., according to regent Barbara Amiss.

The program will be given by Brenda Ramseier, on her painting of the women suffragist and the 19th Amendment.

Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend.

DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of

age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Those having questions about their family history lineage information may contact www.dar.org or Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Amiss at 260-982-4376.

Wabash VFW Post No. 286 to host tenderloin dinner Friday

The Wabash Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 286 is scheduled to host a tenderloin dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26 at 3678 W. Old 24, according to Dan Ford.

The menu will include hand-breaded tenderloin, potato salad and coleslaw.

The cost is \$9 per person. The event is open to the public. Carry-out will be available.

The event will be following COVID-19 guidelines.

For more information, call 260-563-2463.

5-Day Weather Summary

	Wednesday Mostly Cloudy 48 / 26		Thursday Partly Cloudy 40 / 23		Friday Partly Cloudy 43 / 33		Saturday Mostly Cloudy 51 / 36		Sunday Scattered Rain 50 / 37
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset	6:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise	7:21 a.m.
Full	2/27
Last	3/5
New	3/13
First	3/21

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with areas of fog, high temperature of 49°, humidity of 76%. West southwest wind 11 to 14 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 26°. Northwest wind 3 to 11 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 22°.

Black Indiana lawmakers seek reprimands after confrontations

By TOM DAVIES

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Black Legislative Caucus called Tuesday for lawmakers who sparked confrontations with Black legislators last week to face reprimands and for all lawmakers to undergo mandatory anti-bias training.

The request came after tempers flared among Indiana House members on Thursday. Black lawmakers were shouted down and booed by some Republicans during a debate and some verbal altercations took place in hallways.

Democratic Rep. Robin Shackleford of Indianapolis, the Black caucus chairwoman, called the conduct of some Republican members aggressive and intimidating and said it was time to "say enough is enough."

Shackleford said she and other Black caucus members met with Republican House Speaker Todd Huston and asked for reprimands, training on implicit racial bias and for greater safety assurances for lawmakers against hostile behavior.

The steps are needed because of offensive social media posts and comments from some Republican House members, Shackleford said.

"We can't tell who all is racist over there. We hear some of the comments," she

said.

Huston didn't address the Black caucus' requests on Tuesday, saying in a statement he was committed to maintaining "decorum, civility and professionalism." Huston, who is in his first full year as speaker, told House members on Monday that they should be considerate of different perspectives and must be more respectful of lawmakers speaking in accordance with House rules.

"It's not my nature to be heavy-handed in enforcement, but make no mistake going forward that will be the case," Huston said.

Last week's confrontations started when Black lawmakers spoke against a bill allowing a rural, mostly white township in St. Joseph County to leave the South Bend Community Schools, which is about 60 percent Black or Hispanic, and called the proposal discriminatory and racist.

Several Republican members booed, said loudly "no" and "stop," and some started leaving the House meeting room. An argument erupted in a hallway between Republican Sean Eberhart of Shelbyville, who is white, and Democratic Rep. Vanessa Summers of Indianapolis, who is Black. Other legislators separated them.

Democratic Rep. Vernon Smith of Gary, who is Black, said he was called a bully

by Republican Rep. Alan Morrison of Brazil, who is white, when they were in a restroom. Smith said Morrison kept berating him in the hallway until Morrison was pulled aside by another legislator.

"I understand that what I say often is not comfortable for some of my colleagues," Smith, who's been a House member for 31 years, said Tuesday. "What I was offended by is that one of my colleagues wanted to shut me up. I think that I have a right to speak my opinions."

Morrison declined through his legislative press secretary to comment to The Associated Press. Morrison told The Indianapolis Star he wouldn't talk about what happened.

"What happens between two grown men, I won't say anything," Morrison said. "He can say whatever he wants, but I've got no comment on it."

The Black caucus is made up of 14 House members or senators among the 150 state lawmakers. All are Democrats from Indianapolis or northwestern Indiana's Lake County.

The Republican-dominated House narrowly approved the school district bill on a 52-43 vote as 14 Republicans joined Democrats in voting against the proposal, sending it to the Senate for consideration.

WPD accepting probationary police officer applications

The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26

STAFF REPORT

The Wabash Police Department (WPD) is accepting applications for the position of a probationary police officer, according to public information officer Capt. Matt A. Benson.

Benson said applications, job description and agility test requirements may be picked up in person from

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, Feb. 26 at 1340 Manchester Ave.

Benson said the benefits package includes a probationary salary of \$49,319;

career progression incentive pay, longevity and promotional opportunities through the rank structure; take-home car after two years residing within Wabash city limits, comprehensive medical, dental and eye insurance; life insurance; and paid vacation and sick leave.

Benson said under Indiana

Code, applicants may not be appointed as a member of the WPD after the person has reached 40 years of age.

Benson said under the nepotism clause of Indiana Code 36-1-20-2, a person may not be appointed as a member of the WPD who is related to any officer of the department.

Benson said applicants must meet the residency requirements of Indiana Code 36-8-4-2.

"The city of Wabash is an equal opportunity employer," said Benson.

Benson said under Indiana

Drug executives: Big jump in vaccine supply is coming soon

By MATTHEW PERRONE and LAURAN NEERGAARD

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — COVID-19 vaccine makers told Congress on Tuesday to expect a big jump in the delivery of doses over the coming month, and the companies insist they will be able to provide enough for most Americans to get inoculated by summer.

Vaccinations got off to a rocky start, but by the end of March, Pfizer and Moderna expect to have provided the U.S. government with a total of 220 million vaccine doses, up sharply from the roughly 75 million shipped so far.

"We do believe we're on track," Moderna President Stephen Hoge said, outlining ways the company has ramped up production. "We think we're at a very good spot."

That's not counting a third vaccine, from Johnson & Johnson, that's expected to get a green light from regulators soon. The Biden administration said Tuesday that it expects about 2 million doses of that vaccine to be shipped in the first week, but the company told lawmakers it should provide enough of

the single-dose option for 20 million people by the end of March.

Looking ahead to summer, Pfizer and Moderna expect to complete delivery of 300 million doses each, and J&J aims to provide an additional 100 million doses. That would be more than enough to vaccinate every American adult, the goal set by the Biden administration.

Two other manufacturers, Novavax and AstraZeneca, have vaccines in the pipeline and anticipate eventually adding to those totals.

Asked pointedly if they face shortages of raw materials, equipment or funding that would throw off those schedules, all of the manufacturers expressed confidence that they had enough supplies and had already addressed some of the early bottlenecks in production.

"At this point I can confirm we are not seeing any shortages of raw materials," said Pfizer's John Young.

The hearing by a House subcommittee came as U.S. vaccinations continue to accelerate after a sluggish start and recent disruptions caused by winter weather. But state health officials say demand for inoculations still vastly

outstrips the limited weekly shipments provided by the federal government.

"The most pressing challenge now is the lack of supply of vaccine doses," Rep. Diana DeGette, a Colorado Democrat, said as she opened the hearing. "Some of the companies here today are still short of the number of doses they promised to initially deliver when they last testified before this subcommittee in July."

Both Pfizer and Moderna failed to meet delivery quotas for the initial doses of their vaccines late last year. That's prompted Congress to scrutinize the companies' plans for vaccine development and delivery, which they noted benefited from \$16 billion in federal funding.

"A significant amount of American tax dollars were invested to be able to produce the vaccine immediately upon approval," said Rep. David McKinley, a West Virginia Republican, who questioned executives on why they were still unable to meet demand for the vaccines.

Nearly 14 percent of Americans have received at least an initial dose of the two-shot-regimen vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna.

Fed's Powell: Recovery incomplete, high inflation unlikely soon

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER and MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell underscored the U.S. economy's ongoing weakness Tuesday in remarks that suggested that the Fed sees no need to alter its ultra-low interest rate policies anytime soon.

"The economic recovery remains uneven and far from complete, and the path ahead is highly uncertain," Powell said in testimony to the Senate Banking Committee.

Powell's comments are in contrast to the increasing optimism among many analysts that the economy will grow rapidly later this year. That outlook has also raised concerns, though, about a potential surge

in inflation and has fueled a sharp increase in longer-term interest rates this year.

Most economists say they think the Fed's continued low rates, further government financial aid and progress in combating the viral pandemic could create a mini-economic boom as soon as this summer. Powell acknowledged the potential for a healthier economy. But he stressed the personal hardships caused by the pandemic, especially for unemployed Americans.

"As with overall economic activity, the pace of improvement in the labor market has slowed," Powell said. "Although there has been much progress in the labor market since the spring, millions of Americans remain out of work."

Powell's focus on the economy's challenges reflects his reluctance to send any signal that the Fed is considering pulling back on its efforts to boost economic growth and hiring. The Fed cut its benchmark short-term interest rate to nearly zero last March in response to the pandemic recession. It is also purchasing \$120 billion a month in bonds in an effort to hold down longer-term rates.

Powell reiterated that those purchases will continue until "substantial progress" has been made toward the Fed's goals of low unemployment and stable inflation at about 2 percent annually.

The economy may improve rapidly later this year, Powell said, "but the job is not done yet, the job is not done."

Southern Baptists oust 2 churches over LGBTQ inclusion

By DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

The Southern Baptist Convention's executive committee voted Tuesday to oust four of its churches, two over policies deemed to be too inclusive of LGBTQ people and two more for employing pastors convicted of sex offenses.

The actions were announced at a meeting marked by warnings from two top leaders that the SBC, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, was damaging itself with divisions over several critical issues including race.

"We should mourn when closet racists and neo-Confederates feel more at home in our churches than do many of our people of color," said the SBC's president, J.D. Greear, in his opening speech.

The two churches expelled

St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, and Towne View Baptist Church, in Kennesaw, Georgia.

Towne View's pastor, the Rev. Jim Conrad, told The Associated Press last week that he would not appeal the ouster and plans to affiliate his church, at least temporarily, with The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which lets churches set their own LGBTQ policies.

Towne View began admitting LGBTQ worshippers as members in October 2019 after a same-sex couple with three adopted children asked Conrad if they could attend, a decision he defends as the right thing to do.

"The alternative would have been to say, 'We're probably not ready for this,' but I couldn't do that," said Conrad, pastor there since 1994.

St. Matthews Baptist was among more than 12 churches that lost their affiliation

with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2018 because they made financial contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which had recently lifted a ban on hiring LGBTQ employees.

SBC officials said West Side Baptist Church in Sharpsville, Pennsylvania, was ousted because it "knowingly employs as pastor a registered sex offender," while Antioch Baptist Church in Sevierville, Tennessee, has a pastor who was convicted of statutory rape.

West Side Baptist had made clear on its website that its pastor, David Pearson, has a troubled past.

"Over 29 years ago Pastor David lived as a great sinner and rebel," the site says. "But Christ Jesus is a great Savior! Today Pastor David has gone from disgrace to amazing grace and now has served the Lord Jesus Christ at West Side for 18 years."

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Obituaries

The worst are full of passionate intensity

"#RestInPiss" was actually a trending hashtag in America in recent days. Radio talk-show host Rush Limbaugh had died of cancer, and people were celebrating. Because of

Kathryn Lopez



his own very public past of celebrating the deaths of those he disapproved of or disliked, it was declared justified.

Some posts imagined with glee his entrance into hell. Do we really wish that upon a human being? I suspect some of the people tweeting such things don't actually give a lot of thought to the reality of hell and our role in adding to the sins that get people there.

</div

VACCINE

From page A1

from when the local clinic first opened at the Wabash County Museum several weeks ago.

Hobson said they usually have more vaccines available than people to administer them to.

"We usually have to call people," said Hobson, referring to the local waiting list.

As of Tuesday, the ISDH vaccine dashboard reported a total of 4,895 first vaccine doses had been administered in Wabash County, with 22 of those performed Monday. The dashboard also reported a total of 1,828 second vaccine doses had been administered in Wabash County, with 53 of those performed Monday.

Vaccine appointments for this newly eligible population will be available over the next four to six weeks to align with the state receiving its expected weekly vaccine allocation, stated the ISDH. Hoosiers who cannot find an appointment at the nearest location are encouraged to look at other sites in neighboring counties. Appointments are being added regularly as vaccine supplies permit.

By noon Tuesday, nearly 63,000 Hoosiers ages 60 to 64 had scheduled a free COVID-19 vaccine in their first three hours of eligibility. As of Tuesday, 905,236 Hoosiers had received a first dose of vaccine, and 459,603 are fully vaccinated.

Effective immediately, only individuals who live in Indiana and meet the eligibility criteria can receive a vaccine at an Indiana clinic.

"This will ensure that doses allocated to Indiana

go to Hoosiers. All clinics have been reminded to verify eligibility prior to administering a vaccine," stated the ISDH. "Out-of-state residents who received their first dose in Indiana can still receive their second dose at the same clinic."

The ISDH will host 10 vaccine clinics for eligible Hoosiers around the state from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. The clinics are being added to areas where there are currently no open vaccine appointments. Individuals must register in advance at <https://ourshot.in.gov>. No walk-ups will be allowed.

The locations are:

- Ivy Tech, 4475 Central Ave., Columbus.

- Ivy Tech, 251 E. Clinton, Frankfort.

- Ivy Tech, 50 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg.

- Greene County Fairgrounds, 4503 W. State Road 54, Bloomfield.

- Ivy Tech, 410 E. Columbus Dr., East Chicago.

- 3714 Franklin St., Michigan City.

- Inn at Spring Mill State Park, 333 Indiana 60 E., Mitchell.

- Randolph County Fairgrounds, 1885 US 27, Winchester.

- Mid-America Science Park, 821 S. Lake Rd. South, Scottsburg.

- White County Fairgrounds, 12 N. 25 East, Reynolds.

To schedule a vaccine, visit <https://ourshot.in.gov> and select a location from one of more than 370 clinics around the state. Hoosiers who do not have a computer or cell phone or those who need assistance scheduling an appointment can call 211 or contact one of Indiana's Area Agencies on Aging or AARP. Nearly

70 libraries around the state also are helping Hoosiers schedule their appointments.

Vaccination clinics that are part of the federal vaccine program, including those at Walmart, Sams Club and Kroger, appear on the clinic map at <https://ourshot.in.gov> but are scheduled through those retailers' platforms, not through the state centralized system.

Also on Monday, Gov. Eric J. Holcomb is directing flags across the state to be flown at half-staff in memory of the more than 500,000 Americans who have died from COVID-19, according to press secretary Rachel Hoffmeyer.

Per President Joe Biden's proclamation, flags should be flown at half-staff from now until sunset Friday, Feb. 26.

"Gov. Holcomb also asks businesses and residents to lower their flags to half-staff," said Hoffmeyer.

Local figures

- On Saturday, the ISDH reported three new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County's total to 3,274, with 13,930 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 2.4 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 12.9 percent.

- On Sunday, the ISDH reported two new local positive COVID-19 cases, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the state Department of Health since Feb. 26, 2020.

- To find testing sites around the state, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

- On Monday, the ISDH reported nine new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County's

total to 3,285, with 13,983 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 2.5 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 12.1 percent.

■ On Tuesday, the ISDH reported two new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County's total to 3,287, with 13,992 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 2.2 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 10.3 percent.

Statewide figures

On Tuesday, the ISDH reported that 716 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 657,037 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day's dashboard.

A total of 12,025 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 44 from the previous day. Another 425 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record.

To date, 3,088,729 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 3,085,554 on Monday. A total of 7,815,751 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the state Department of Health since Feb. 26, 2020.

To find testing sites around the state, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

"A criminal charge is merely an accusation," said Benson. "Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty."

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

COVID-19 testing continues at Parkview Wabash

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital "on an on-going basis." Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within a few steps of the conference room and testing site.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email office@wabashfriends.org, call 260-571-5235 or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

JAIL

From page A1

it's being used to house inmates," said Baker.

Baker said they drive thousands of miles per month just transferring inmates from one jail to another.

"These things are all becoming a little overbearing for us," said Baker.

The county has issued a request for proposals to select an architect or engineer for the new facility to be located at 1335 Manchester Ave.

Pyramid Consulting president Terry Burnworth, who has been hired as the owner's representative, said they were looking at a 90,000 square feet facility, which would house around 300 inmates.

Burnworth said a 20-acre parcel would be carved out for the new facility and also for future expansion.

Bowman said when they started transferring inmates in 2012, it was "not a significant amount at the start."

"As the years have progressed it's continued to increase," said Bowman.

Bowman said the projected cost for 2021 would be \$1.2 million to house inmates out of the county.

"If we build a 225-bed jail at 179 beds it's full," said Baker. "We house 170 to 180 inmates."

Bowman said the projected cost for the project was around \$33 million. Bowman said a yearly \$2.1 million or \$2.3 million amortizing payment on a 20-year time frame for a complete payoff would be required.

Wabash County District 1 commissioner Brian K. Haupert said they would know more once they hired the architect.

"Hiring the architect is an important step for us because we need to know hard numbers," said Haupert.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

tax-driven.

"We're not changing the property tax rates we are assessing," said Bowman. "We are looking at changing credits that residents, business and landowners receive."

Bowman said these credits, sometimes called Property Tax Reform Committee (PTRC) credits, have been in existence for quite a few years and remove some of the income tax burdens.

Bowman said they were looking at lowering these credits from .5 to .4.

Bowman said these credits are assessed at different values and amounts and are based on property types, with most of them going to homeowners.

"A smaller portion goes to rentals, business owners and landowners," said Bowman. "We can begin changing these credits we've been getting. The more drastic percentage change to homeowners."

During the question and answer portion of the meeting, Baker said they chose a 300-bed facility because, according to the state standard, that would mean the new jail would be at capacity when the average daily population reached 240.

Bowman said the state had recently changed the reimbursement method so that some low-level felons remain in the county.

Bowman said while the state reimburses the county for the cost of housing these inmates locally, the state has been running behind on their reimbursements.

Bowman said the state recently changed the formula to a one-time distribution based on the preceding year's number of housed inmates.

"It's a more dependable number on what we're getting reimbursed, (but) we can't really correlate it to a specific year," said Bowman.

Bowman said the state created a correctional facility fund that is income

by the Wabash County Board of Commissioners. Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County auditor, said the county portion was \$436,000 for the bridge project.

Wabash County Bridge No. 144 has been unusable due to flood damage for over two years, and a group of nearby residents has become more and more concerned they will be permanently left with only one way in and out of their homes and businesses.

Manning said for this latest round of funding, rural communities will design, develop and purchase land for projects that would be bid during the fiscal year beginning July 2025. INDOT dedicates approximately 25 percent of its federal highway funds to support local projects each year. Metropolitan Planning Organizations distribute those funds to cities, towns, and counties within the state's larger urbanized areas while INDOT distributes funds outside MPO areas.

"While the funds awarded now are dedicated to construction, INDOT will be financially participating in the design, engineering, and right of way acquisition components of these projects," said Manning.

Manning said communities must pay at least 20 percent in local matching funds and meet other federal requirements to receive federal funding. Rural communities were invited to submit project applications to INDOT for potential funding during a call for projects announced in October 2020.

In November 2020, Wyatt submitted a proposal to provide this local funding, which was approved unanimously.

"The existing structure and right-of-way will be returned to the Army Corps of Engineers," said Wyatt.

Local resident Don Jervis has been a familiar presence at Wabash County Board of Commissioners meetings speaking against the county's plans for the bridges.

"Should the (Army Corps of Engineers) accept the Bridge No. 144 property, perhaps they will demonstrate how to fill in a hole in a man-made hill," said Jervis on Monday. "As to Bridge No. 143, July 2026 is a long time from now for a \$1.5 million project. New concerns, new characters."

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

LARGE BLOCK OF PRODUCTIVE CROPLAND AUCTION

MARCH 10th, 6:30 pm EST MIAMI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS | 1029 W 200 N, PERU INSPECTION DATES: FEB. 23 & 26 | 4:00-6:00pm

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TRACT 4: E 400 N and N 300 E TRACT 6: E 400 N and SR 19

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HRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC6920019 OWNER: BALLARD FARM, ILLS#AJJ-12591

PURSUIT

From page A1

According to court records, Armstrong was charged with a misdemeanor charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a felony charge of reckless driving at unreasonable high or low speed so to endanger safety.

County office. Tuition for the workshop will be \$550 until March 9, when the cost will go up to \$600. The tuition fee will cover the participant's course fees, an in-depth personalized PCM profile, and snacks and meals throughout the workshop. Those interested or representatives for their companies can do so at www.growwabashcounty.com/pcmworkshop or by contacting Grow Wabash County by email info@growwabashcounty.com or by phone at 260-563-5258.

Employers invited to Manchester University Virtual Career Fair

Those with opportunities for full-time and part-time employment, internships and graduate school are invited to take part in the Manchester University Virtual Career Fair. The deadline to register is March 5, but spots are limited. Organizations can take part free of charge.

The virtual career fair is 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 on Handshake, an online platform that helps students connect with potential employers. This fair is for undergraduate students from the North Manchester campus. Register by visiting <https://link.manchester.edu/careerfair> or email CareerDevelopment@manchester.edu.

Visit Wabash County plans

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

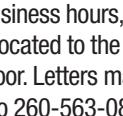
To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

DAILY SCRIPTURE

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

John 6:37



DAILY SCRIPTURE

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

John 6:37

Resist Facebook bullying

Americans – including President Joe Biden, members of Congress and everyone sharing news online – should heed what Facebook is doing in Australia.

On Wednesday, Facebook abruptly blocked everyone in Australia from sharing and posting legitimate news stories on its site. It did this to avoid compensating news organizations, as required by a forthcoming Australian law.

In other words, the company that wants everyone to share everything is itself refusing to share. Facing the prospect of having to play nice, it threw a fit and degraded its site across an entire nation.

America should prepare to resist such bullying.

Australia is previewing what's to come as the U.S. and other countries pursue antitrust enforcement and reforms to rein in digital platforms, and preserve free press systems essential to their democracies.

The bullying apparently won't work in Australia. Government officials are furious and proceeding with plans to pass a law requiring Facebook and Google to negotiate compensation with news organizations or face arbitration.

Tech giants must accept that this is happening and adjust.

Facebook's reaction could ultimately help the news industry. If people can no longer get free snippets delivering the essence of the news on social media, they'll have to subscribe to newspapers or visit websites of media companies that invest in reporting to remain informed.

People used to get and share music online for free, which hurt artists and that industry. Government intervened, platforms evolved and paid subscriptions now account for most music sales. Facebook and Google can't continue to be the circa 1999 Napsters of news.

Google also threw a fit and threatened to withdraw its search service from Australia. But it relented after Microsoft offered to replace it with Bing, and comply with the law, in an extraordinary gesture of support for sustaining the free press.

Don't overlook the context. Facebook and Google are widely used because they offer great services. But both have been found to be abusing their dominant positions in ways that harm other companies, industries and consumers.

Those findings prompted Australia's proposal, to require the sites to compensate news organizations.

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission in 2019 produced an extensive study documenting anti-competitive behavior and calling for multiple policy changes, including new rules for mergers. It sums up the situation well:

"The benefits that digital platforms have brought to consumers and businesses have not come without costs and consequences. It is these costs and consequences that governments must now grapple with, both in Australia and in other countries."

U.S. regulators and policymakers are just a step or two behind, and recently concluded

their own investigations. That includes an October report by the House Judiciary Committee's antitrust subcommittee.

"The Subcommittee's series of hearings produced significant evidence that these firms wield their dominance in ways that erode entrepreneurship, degrade Americans' privacy online, and undermine the vibrancy of the free and diverse press," the House report states. "The result is less innovation, fewer choices for consumers, and a weakened democracy."

That was followed by state and federal antitrust cases filed against Google and Facebook.

The Australia flap should help the U.S. prepare for what's likely to happen next. As investigations lead to antitrust enforcement and policy reforms, forcing tech giants to change their behavior, threats and service disruptions may ensue.

To avoid shocks, elected officials should be sure to communicate early and often what's really happening: Platforms are exploiting their dominance and hurting competition, so enforcement, regulation and policy reforms are required.

Of course the companies will push back. That's disconcerting because their services are valued and have an extraordinary influence on daily life.

But dominant digital platforms must play by the rules and stop harming competitors, the free press and democracy. Bullying and threatening nations only show how much this is needed.

This editorial was first published in *The Seattle Times*.

Support FFA members during FFA week and year-round

By BRUCE KETTLER

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education." This FFA mission statement is a testament to our members, chapters, advisors and supporters everywhere.

National FFA week started Monday, Feb. 20. It is held annually on the last full week in February. This year it will look unlike any other FFA week, showcasing virtual "events" rather than Blue and Gold filling the school halls or a pancake breakfast made by members for all the teachers. Our more than 12,000 Indiana FFA members have found ways to still make it special, nonetheless.

The celebrations this week will include virtual visits from Indiana FFA State Officers to FFA chapters across the state. Like every year, this FFA week will also include a proclamation from Indiana legislators who are set to recognize the importance of FFA week and supporting our students. FFA students from across the state will also have the opportunity to learn from agriculture leaders about creating opportunities to tell their story in agriculture and to stand up for agricultural practices on the local, state and federal level with four virtual FFA Advocacy days. Even though this FFA week is certain to look unlike any other, these resilient students have found a way to keep FFA traditions alive.

We cannot honor and celebrate National FFA week without remembering former Indiana FFA Association Director Rob Hays, who passed away last summer. Rob embodied everything FFA is and stands for and is dearly missed in our department and throughout the state. Rob was most passionate about building leaders, something that FFA does so well.

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture and Indiana FFA Association believe leadership development and equipping members with the skills they need to succeed at any stage of life is crucial. Recently we partnered with Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch's office to develop Indiana's Rural Road to Recovery plan, designed to get our state back on track following the pandemic. One priority outlined in our rural road to recovery is to strengthen the pipeline of individuals seeking careers in agriculture. FFA is a great way to get students learning and involved in agriculture-related careers.

Many times I have heard it said that FFA members are some of the hardest working, most eager students on a job or in an internship. I am certain that is due in large part to FFA's leadership and learning model along with the positive support from advisors and parents.

I want to encourage businesses and post-secondary educational institutions to take a deeper look into FFA members as they are moving into careers or furthering their education. Beyond leadership skills, FFA members learn so much about agriculture, food science, technology and a variety of other disciplines preparing them for success.

I further encourage business and community leaders to ask themselves how they can promote youth education or support their local FFA chapter. Our local FFA chapters and schools need business participation for events and to expand learning opportunities. This is also a great way to establish a connection with the next generation of community leaders, which could lead to job shadowing or an internship.

FFA members exhibit the value of hard work, education and strong leadership instilled in them from the very beginning of their membership and make excellent additions to any workforce or team. At the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, we feel that firsthand because almost half of our 60 employees were FFA members. During FFA week I encourage others to think when was the last time I volunteered with my local FFA chapter? By working together and supporting the local chapters we can take FFA and Indiana's 12,000 FFA members to the next level.

Bruce Kettler is the director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

LETTER

Commemorating the anniversary of the 1992 Khojaly Massacre

On Feb. 26, Azerbaijani people will solemnly observe the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre, Europe's first mass atrocity since World War II. On that night in 1992, the Armenian forces, armed by the 366th infantry regiment of the Russian army, attacked the town of Khojaly in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Estimated 613 fleeing residents of the town, including 106 women and 63 children, were chased and brutally murdered by the Armenian fighters. Hundreds of civilians went missing, over a thousand received permanent health damage, 1,275 were taken hostage, and over 150 children lost one or both parents.

Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, The New York Times, other media outlets and rights watchdogs documented the atrocity. The Armenian field commander, Monte Melkonian, provided a shocking witness account of the "killing fields" near Khojaly in his diary, reproving his fellow fighters of the war crime. Former Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan also admitted that it was an act of revenge against Azerbaijanis. Yet officially, the Armenian government and the Armenian-American interest groups continue denying the atrocity and justice to its victims.

Speaking to the UN General Assembly on the occasion of the Holocaust Remembrance in January 2015, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin highlighted the Khojaly Massacre among the genocidal acts that the international community failed to prevent. The painful memory of Khojaly remains an obstacle for the Armenian-Azerbaijani reconciliation also actively sought by the United States. On this occasion, I join the Azerbaijani-American Council and the community to commemorate the Khojaly Massacre and to support its recognition through public statements.

Naida Khalilova

Fort Wayne



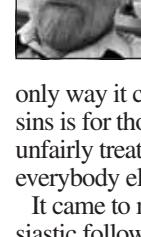
The citizenship question

Is U.S. citizenship still worth something?

That is such a grimly disheartening question because of where it came from.

I did not hear it from the usual

Leo Morris



"America is awful" crowd, the people who either think the republic always was and always will be an oppressive blight on the face of the Earth or believe the

only way it can atone for its sins is for those who have been unfairly treated to unfairly treat everybody else.

It came to me from an enthusiastic follower of the Indiana Policy Review, for which I write these columns.

That is an organization dedicated to freedom and the constitutional principles that undergird it. If those who follow that vision are losing faith in the value of their franchise, is there any future left for the country?

There had better be. This country is still the best hope for the world, and to give up on its promise is to give up on all humankind.

America was founded on the single greatest political idea in history: Rights inhere in the individual.

Somewhere between anarchy and tyranny, people have forever tried to find the perfect government, the one that will provide the proper balance of autonomy and dependence. How can we best obtain security and still preserve our liberty?

Until America, the group was always paramount. There were no rights as such, merely privileges that could be granted or withheld to favored or shunned

groups at the whim of an absolute ruler.

Then came our Declaration of Independence and Constitution to lay the foundation for a better way. Each individual person

has rights – call them natural or God-given – just by virtue of being human that are beyond the purview of government. In fact, the chief justification for government is to protect those rights.

That is the basis of American Exceptionalism, a point President Obama missed – deliberately, I suspect – when he blithely said something to the effect that, well, all people think their country is exceptional.

America is exceptional because it found the exception to submission to tyranny.

And, yes, its behavior is often not exceptional. It does not always live up to its promise. You can find plenty of complaints from all across the political spectrum. The oligarchy is taking over. Cancel culture is rampant. There is anarchy in the streets. Equality of results has replaced equality of opportunity. Income inequality is out of control. And on and on.

I have my own concerns, especially about the leviathan state. I worry that the federal debt will crush us. It bothers me that the Supreme Court declared my property available for an economic developer with deep pockets, and that the state of Indiana declares the right to take people's possessions by accusing them of crimes they have not even been tried for. It is astonishing that two presidents – Obama and George W. Bush – gave themselves the authority to have any American anywhere killed on their order alone and that there was no national outrage.

But consider: Those are holes

in the only ship of state we have. If we abandon it, to which shore do we swim?

I am proud of some of the things I have done, ashamed of others. I try to take responsibility for my own actions, as all moral people should.

I try to avoid grand pronouncements about things outside my control. I cringe when people say they are ashamed to be an American, and I would never say I am proud to be an American. That is but an accident of birth.

But I am glad to be one. It is gratifying to be a citizen of a country that not only stands for the right thing but acknowledges its failures to live up to its own standards and always tries to do better.

If this nation, founded on the concept of natural rights, gets so many things wrong about freedom, imagine what the world would be like without America's striving as an example. The more mistakes we make, the more we demonstrate how much we are needed.

"For if they do these things in a green tree," it says in Luke 23:31, "what shall be done in the dry?"

I will leave it to the biblical scholars to offer the religious interpretation of that passage. But we can divine a secular meaning.

The world with America is a green tree, still capable of giving and nurturing life. The world without America would be so very, very dry.

Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at leoedit@yahoo.com.

Sports

A9

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

WabashPlainDealer.com

MU's Kelsey Tyler named 2021 HCAC indoor track MVP

Spartans win four individual titles on Saturday

By DILLON BENDER

Junior Kelsey Tyler, from Rochester, was named the 2021 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Women's Indoor Track MVP after winning a pair of individual conference crowns and helping guide the Manchester University women's indoor track and field team to a runner-up finish at Saturday's conference championships.

Tyler kicked off Saturday's championships by winning the very first event of the day, the 5000 meters, with a leading time of 19:25.17. Fellow teammates Lauren Smith, from Anderson and Lapel High School, and Hannah Brubaker, from Goshen and NorthWood High School, placed second and third in the 5000m with respective times of 19:30.49 and 19:30.72.

Tyler would go on to also win the 3000 meters on Saturday afternoon. Kelsey led the field with a top time of 11:10.97. Tyler would add a fourth-place finish in the mile as well, crossing the tape with a time of 5:37.74.

Hannah Brubaker added an individual title in the mile run. Brubaker led Sat-



Junior Kelsey Tyler, from Rochester, was named the 2021 HCAC Women's Indoor Track MVP.

urday's field with a time of 5:32.48. Lauren Smith added a third-place finish in the mile with a time of 5:36.84.

Lauren Smith took home the fourth individual crown for the Black and Gold on Saturday, taking top honors in the 800-meter run. Smith beat out Franklin College's Angelina Gregory by just one-tenth of a second – 2:31.79 to 2:31.89.

Manchester added a runner-up podium finish in the 4-x-400 relay. The team consisting of Brooke

Bouwens, Sydney Young, Morgan Chupp, and Adelle Stanko posted a final time of 4:33.21.

Other notable podium finishes included junior Erica Mohr's, from Payne, Ohio and Wayne Trace High School, a third-place finish in the weight throw. Mohr posted a final mark of 13.36m (43' 10"). The 4-x-200 relay team of Brooke Bouwens, Elizabeth Russell, Kendal Garringer, and Adelle Stanko earned a third-place finish follow-

ing a final time of 1:56.81. Garringer would also add a third-place finish in the high jump on Saturday.

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology took home the top team honors on Saturday with 189 points. Manchester earned 137 points – the highest team total in at least eight years – to claim a runner-up team finish. Hanover placed third with 100 points.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Black and Gold honor trio of seniors

Spartans shot 50 percent from the floor and drained 14 three-pointers

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University men's basketball team honored its three seniors before Friday night's game against Franklin.

The Black and Gold honored Cortiz Buckner, CJ Hampton, and Matt Westman with a small, on-court ceremony before Friday's game.

Once the ball was tipped, the visiting Grizzlies and host Spartans engaged in a fast-paced contest that saw

Franklin outgun Manchester 88-76.

The Grizzlies were difficult to stop as Franklin connected on 32 of its 57 field goal attempts on Friday night – good for a 56.1 percent clip. FC also shot 9-of-16 (56.3 percent) from three-point territory and went 15-of-18 (83.3 percent) from the free-throw line.

Manchester was able to keep pace with the Grizzlies, however, the Black and Gold were never quite

able to fully overcome Franklin on Friday night. The Spartans shot 50 percent (28-56) from the floor and drained 14 three-pointers.

Franklin held a 34-24 advantage in the rebounding department and converted 13 Spartan turnovers into 17 points.

Freshman Brandon Christlieb, from Ashely and Prairie Heights High School, led MU with 22 points. Christlieb finished Friday's game 6-of-9 from beyond the three-point arc. Seniors CJ Hampton, from Hammond and Griffith High School, and Cortiz Buckner, from Lafayette and Lafayette Jefferson

High School, both scored 13 points. Hampton added eight rebounds while Buckner dished out four assists.

Jackson Jannsen, from Carmel, added 11 points while Matt Westman, from Michigan City, chipped in 10 points and five rebounds.

Ty Wright led five Grizzlies in double figures with 20 points.

Manchester and Franklin met Saturday on the campus of Franklin College. Game time between the Spartans and Grizzlies was scheduled for 5 p.m.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

HCAC will unveil its 2021 Tournament bracket on Sunday

By DILLON BENDER

A new day meant another new opportunity for the Manchester University men's basketball team. Manchester wrapped up its regular-season schedule with a 69-61 road victory at Franklin College on Saturday, Feb. 20.

A day after Franklin topped the Spartans 88-76 in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on the strength of 56.1 percent shooting, the Black and Gold clamped down defensively and limited FC to just 36.7 percent (22-60) shooting in Saturday's contest. Manchester also held the Grizzlies to just 20 percent (4-20) shooting from the three-point territory on their home floor.

Manchester led 21-20 at

the half. Both teams combined to score 89 points following the intermission.

Freshman Brandon Christlieb, from Ashely and Prairie Heights High School, led Manchester University in scoring for the second consecutive night, scoring 18 points. Christlieb finished 7-16 from the floor and 4-9 from downtown. Cortiz Buckner, from Lafayette and Lafayette Jefferson High School, chipped in 13 points and five rebounds off

the bench. Matt Westman, from Michigan City, added 12 points and six boards.

Sam Gutierrez led Franklin with 18 points.

The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) will unveil its 2021 HCAC Tournament bracket on Sunday, Feb. 28. All 10 HCAC teams will qualify for this year's conference tournament.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Mike Ehrmann / Getty Images / TNS

Tiger Woods hits his tee shot on the 15th hole during the final round of the PNC Championship at the Ritz Carlton Golf Club on Dec. 20, 2020.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Golf star Tiger Woods suffered leg injuries Tuesday in a vehicle rollover in suburban Los Angeles and was undergoing surgery, authorities said and his manager said.

Woods was alone in the vehicle and had to be extricated from it, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said in a statement. No other cars were involved in the wreck that injured the golfer.

An ambulance took Woods to a hospital in serious condition, authorities said.

"Tiger Woods was in a single-car accident this morn-

ing in California where he suffered multiple leg injuries," said his manager, Mark Steinberg. "He is currently in surgery and we thank you for your privacy and support."

A KABC-TV helicopter over the wreck showed a car on its side, with its front end heavily damaged just off the side of a road near a hillside. The air bags appeared to be deployed.

There was a second crash when a vehicle that had apparently stopped to help Woods got hit, said Christopher Thomas, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Fire Department. That wreck

Franklin powers past Manchester on Friday

Tiara Jackson led MU with 11 points and seven rebounds

By DILLON BENDER

The visiting Franklin College Grizzlies powered past Manchester 57-32 in women's basketball action on Friday, Feb. 19.

Franklin's ball pressure made things difficult on the Spartans in Friday's contest. The Grizzlies forced 28 turnovers and converted those

28 turnovers into 22 points. Manchester was also hard-pressed to convert clean

looks at the basket, shooting 12-48 (25 percent) from the field. Franklin's defense also held the Spartans to just 1-15 (6.7 percent) shooting from three-point territory.

Tiara Jackson, from East Chicago and Central High School, led MU with 11 points and seven rebounds. Jackson also blocked two shots.

Manchester and Franklin met again Saturday afternoon at Franklin. Game time between the Spartans and Grizzlies was scheduled for 3 p.m.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Women's hoops conclude the regular season with a road contest at Franklin

Grizzlies defended their home floor, topping MU by a final score of 69-57

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University women's basketball team concluded the regular season portion of its schedule on Saturday afternoon with a road rematch with the Franklin College Grizzlies.

Host Franklin defended its home floor, topping Manchester by a final score of 69-57.

Franklin got 16 and 14 points, respectively, from forwards Destinee Cross and Bayleigh Torrance on Saturday. The Grizzlies shot 40 percent (24-60) from the floor. Franklin also made 19 of its 31 attempts at the free-throw line.

Manchester finished shooting 20-51 (39.2 percent) for the game and made 12-of-19 free throw attempts (63.2 percent). The Black and Gold got 16 points and five rebounds from Bridget Nash, from Carmel and Bishop Chatard High School. Tiara Jackson, from East Chicago and Central High School, tallied another double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Hannah Lindsey, from Speedway, and Abby Walker, from Oswego, Illinois, and Cloverdale High School, each added eight points off the bench.

The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference will unveil its 2021 HCAC Tournament bracket. All 10 HCAC teams will qualify for this year's conference tournament.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

MU Volleyball honors senior class on Saturday

Rachel Ressler, from Tipton, served eight aces that afternoon

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University volleyball team honored its five seniors during Saturday's doubleheader against Transylvania University.

The Black and Gold honored Alexandria Collins, Mackenzie Rooks, Lauren Gandhi, Hailey Rivard, and Grace Ondrla with a small, on-court ceremony in between the first and second match of Saturday's doubleheader.

The visiting Pioneers won both matches on Saturday in straight sets.

■ Match 1: Transylvania defeated Manchester 3-0 (25-23, 25-17, 25-16)

■ Match 2: Transylvania defeated Manchester 3-0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-13)

The Spartans nearly overcame a 9-point deficit in the

first set to begin Saturday's doubleheader.

Following a close call in the first set, 25-23, Transylvania sharpened its play en route to a pair of straight-set victories.

Samantha Campbell, from Brownsburg, continued her consistent play, leading the Black and Gold with 18 kills on the day. Campbell is hitting a team-best .208 this season.

Jordan Holland, from Osceola and Mishawaka High School, and Lauren Gandhi, from Westfield and Guerin Catholic High School, collected 19 and 14 assists, respectively.

Rachel Ressler, from Tipton, served eight aces on the afternoon.

Manchester concluded the 2020-21 season with a home doubleheader against Anderson University on Tuesday, Feb. 23. The first serve against the Ravens was scheduled for 6 p.m.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Tiger Woods suffers leg injuries after car crash

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Golf star Tiger Woods suffered leg injuries Tuesday in a vehicle rollover in suburban Los Angeles and was undergoing surgery, authorities said and his manager said.

Woods was alone in the vehicle and had to be extricated from it, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said in a statement. No other cars were involved in the wreck that injured the golfer.

An ambulance took Woods to a hospital in serious condition, authorities said.

"Tiger Woods was in a single-car accident this morn-

ing in California where he suffered multiple leg injuries," said his manager, Mark Steinberg. "He is currently in surgery and we thank you for your privacy and support."

A KABC-TV helicopter over the wreck showed a car on its side, with its front end heavily damaged just off the side of a road near a hillside. The air bags appeared to be deployed.

There was a second crash when a vehicle that had apparently stopped to help Woods got hit, said Christopher Thomas, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Fire Department. That wreck

was very minor, and no one was hurt.

Woods' crash occurred shortly before 7:15 a.m. about 20 miles south of downtown Los Angeles, on the border of the upscale communities of Rolling Hills Estates and Rancho Palos Verdes, officials said.

Woods was in Los Angeles over the weekend as the tournament host of the Genesis Invitational at Riviera, where he presented the trophy. He was to spend Monday and Tuesday filming with Discovery-owned GOLFTV, with whom he has an endorsement contract. A

tweet Monday showed him in a cart smiling with comedian David Spade.

According to Golf Digest, the TV shoot was on-course lessons to celebrities, such as Spade and Dwyane Wade. He did not play.

The 15-time major champion last played Dec. 20 in the PNC Championship with his 11-year-old son, Charlie.

This is the third time Woods has been involved in a car investigation. The most notorious was the early morning after Thanksgiving in 2009, when his SUV ran over a fire hydrant and hit a tree.

Mike Ehrmann / Getty Images / TNS

FFA CHAPTER celebrated NATIONAL FFA WEEK February 22-29, 2021

The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students.

FFA members are the leaders of tomorrow. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

To accomplish its mission, FFA:

- Develops competent and assertive agricultural leadership.
- Increases awareness of the global and technological importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being.
- Strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work.
- Promotes the intelligent choice and establishment of an agricultural career.
- Encourages achievement in supervised agricultural experience programs.
- Encourages wise management of economic, environmental and human resources of the community.
- Develops interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction.
- Builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism.
- Promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people.
- Promotes healthy lifestyles.
- Encourages excellence in scholarship.



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